

Reed's 2006 Election Legislation

Moving the Primary forward to August

✓ **Election Dates**

Changes the primary from the 3rd Tuesday in September to the 3rd Tuesday in August.
Changes filing week from the 4th Monday in July to the 1st Monday in June.
Changes the time period for minor party conventions from the last Saturday in June to the 1st Saturday in May.
Increases the time for certifying the Primary from 10 days to 15 days.
Requires military and overseas ballots to be mailed 30 days before the election.
Changes the time period by which vacancies must occur to trigger a special filing period from 6 weeks before the election to 11 weeks.
Increases the time for calling a special election from 45 days to 52 days.

✓ **Campaign Finance Freeze**

Moves the start of the fundraising freeze from 30 days before the legislative session to December 24th.
Eliminates the 30 day fundraising freeze after a regular session.

Takes effect January 1, 2007.

Electronic Voter Registration

✓ **Online Registration**

Allows a voter to fill out a voter registration application on the Secretary of State's website.
Limits availability to voters with a Washington state driver's license or state ID card.
Requires the voter to affirmatively declare the information to be true.
Allows the Secretary of State to obtain a copy of the voter's signature from the Department of Licensing.

Takes effect January 1, 2007.

Updating Voting Equipment Laws

✓ **Disability Access Voting Devices**

Requires disability access units to be available when absentee ballots are available, 20 days before the election.

✓ **Testing and Certification**

Requires voting equipment be tested and certified by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, rather than be "used in at least one other state."

The combination of federal and state laws impose specific requirements on voting technology, but the state law that requires equipment to be used in another state before it may be used in Washington creates hurdles for compliance.

Continued on reverse →

- ✓ **Multiple Political Parties**
Repeals the requirement that voting equipment allow the voter to vote for candidates of multiple political parties because this requirement conflicts with the pick-a-party primary.

Ballot Measure Petitions and Explanatory Statements

- ✓ **Ballot Measure Petitions**
Makes it a gross misdemeanor to circulate a petition that appears to support a measure that differs from the actual measure attached to the petition.
- ✓ **Rejection of Petitions**
Clarifies that the Office of the Secretary of State may reject a returned signature petition if it lacks the warning required by law.
- ✓ **Signature Gatherer Declaration**
Adds a declaration to recall petitions requiring the signature gatherer to swear that he or she did not pay people to sign or commit other prohibited acts, as is required on other ballot measure petitions.
- ✓ **Challenging Explanatory Statements**
Sets the time period for challenging explanatory statements for all types of ballot measures at five days.

Currently, the time period for initiatives to the people, initiatives to the Legislature, and referendum measures is five days. The time period for referendum bills and constitutional amendments is ten days.
This is consistent with the time period for challenging ballot titles for ballot measures.

Making Technical Changes to Election Laws

- ✓ **Filing Fee Petitions**
Changes the name of the petition that is in lieu of the filing fee from “nominating petition” to “filing fee petition” to avoid confusion with the nominating petition used for minor party nominations.
- ✓ **Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) Envelopes**
Removes out-of-state voters from the statute on UOCAVA envelopes because this is a federal program that only includes service (military) and overseas voters.
- ✓ **Signature Verification**
Moves signature verification requirements to more appropriate sections of the statutes.
- ✓ **Repeals Duplicate Statutes**